

*** * * R E M A R K S * * ***

The present application is a Continuation-In-Part of application serial number 09/406,290 (the “‘290 application”) filed on September 24, 1999, the complete disclosure of which is incorporated by reference into the present application. By this Preliminary Amendment, Figure 9 (Figure 6 of the ‘290 application) and certain excerpts from the ‘290 specification are added to the present application. The excerpts are indicated by underlining in the preceding marked-up copy of the substitute specification. A clean copy of the substitute specification is attached as Exhibit A. New claims 17-29, which are fully supported by these additions, have also been added. No new matter not previously contained in this application Serial No. 09/804,677, or in the ‘290 application which this application incorporates and to which priority is claimed, has been added.

Applicants have previously filed a Notice of Related Applications identifying the ‘290 application and application serial number 09/753,408 (the ‘408 application), filed on January 2, 2001, as related applications. The ‘408 application subsequently issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,611,815. The ‘290 application remains pending. However, that application was the subject of a recent decision of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences. That decision reversed a final rejection of pending claims 1-43. A copy of this decision is attached to this Preliminary Amendment as Exhibit B for the Examiner’s reference.

Applicants further note that the subject matter of original claims 1-16 of the present application was originally presented, with some variations, as claims 44-51 of the ‘290 application. Those claims were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,933,815 to Golden. No secondary reference was identified. Claims 44-51 were cancelled from the ‘290 application, without prejudice and with traverse, to expedite prosecution of the ‘290 application. Applicants specifically reserved the right to present the subject matter of claims 44-51 in the present CIP application, and so indicated in the response to the Examiner’s Office Action in which claims 44-51 were cancelled. While claims 44-51 were not before the Board of Appeals, it is noted that the same Golden reference was the primary reference relied upon by the Examiner in connection with both the

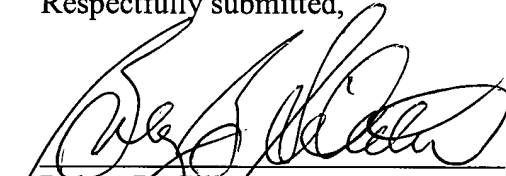
Serial No. 09/804667
Attorney Docket No. 37168/82320

rejections of claims 44-51 and the rejections of claims 1-43, the latter of which rejections were reversed by the Board.

Entry of the present Preliminary Amendment prior to the examination of the application is respectfully requested.

A fee calculation sheet and check in the amount of \$800.00 accompanies this Preliminary Amendment. To the extent additional fees are required, please charge the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 02-1010 (37168/82320), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Serial No. 09/804667
Attorney Docket No. 37168/82320

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please add Figure 9 as presented in the new drawing sheet which follows.